

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CONTACT**

John Grassy, Public Information Officer  
Montana Dept. Natural Resources and Conservation  
(406) 444-0465



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## **Drought forums scheduled for Aug., Sept**

**HELENA, Mont.** – Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney today announced a series of drought forums to be held in several communities across Montana. The forums will allow Montana citizens to weigh in on the 2016 update of the Montana Drought Response Plan.

Meetings are scheduled in Havre, Billings, Bozeman and Missoula at the following times and locations:

August 16, 1- 2:30pm	Havre City Hall	520 4 <sup>th</sup> St.
September 7, 3-4:30pm	Billings Public Library	510 N. Broadway
September 8, 11am – 12:30pm	Bozeman Public Library	626 E. Main St.
September 13, 2-3:30pm	Missoula Public Library	301 E. Main St.

In light of current dry conditions, Lt. Governor Cooney, who chairs the Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee, wants input from local communities on steps the state can take to help them prepare for and respond to drought. Cooney and the Committee are in the process of updating the State's current Drought Response Plan.

Water short times in Montana occur with some regularity and impacts can be reduced by proactive planning, early warning and coordinated response. Communities with clear, locally-driven response plans for times of low stream flow and soil moisture conditions have shown an ability to adapt to drought impacts and economic hardship.

For more information on the current Montana Drought Management Plan, visit [drought.mt.gov](http://drought.mt.gov).

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